

# Atlantic Richfield Company

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August 6, 2012

## **CERTIFIED – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

Ms. Jere Johnson  
Remedial Project Manager  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 9  
75 Hawthorne Street, SFD-9-1  
San Francisco, CA 94105

**Subject: July 2012 Monthly Report, Yerington Mine Site, Lyon County, Nevada: Administrative Order for Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS), CERCLA Docket No. 9-2007-0005; Administrative Order on Consent, CERCLA Docket No. 09-2009-0010**

Dear Ms. Johnson:

Pursuant to the above referenced orders issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Region 9 (EPA), Atlantic Richfield Company (ARC) has prepared this July 2012 monthly report for RI/FS and Operations and Maintenance (O&M) activities at the Yerington Mine Site (Site).

## **July 2012 Activities**

### Site Security and O&M Activities

- Continued routine Site O&M, security and bird deterrent activities. Security cameras at various locations (e.g., Main and Arimetco gates, entrances to buildings) indicated no activity of concern.
- "Wind Dancers" were operated at the Slot Pond, the Pumpback Well System (PWS) Pond, and the Lined Evaporation Pond. Propane cannons were operated at the Arimetco Fluid Management System (FMS) ponds (with the exception of the VLT Pond, as directed by EPA). Locations of "Wind Dancers" and bird deterrent flags were rotated every two weeks, or as field observations dictated, to lessen the possibility of birds becoming habituated to these deterrents. In keeping with the Bird Mitigation SOP, and as a result of the evaporation of water in the pumpback and lined evaporation ponds, bird guard towers A, B and C have been turned off for the duration of the dry season. Start/stop times on all propane cannons continued to be adjusted to reflect the changing timing of sunrise and sunset.
- Water levels in all PWS Evaporation Pond cells dropped to zero due to evaporation.
- Arimetco FMS pond levels: Phase 1 Pond = 3.23 feet; FMS Evaporation Pond = 8.68 feet; VLT Pond = 3.91 feet; Slot 2 Pond = 4.66 feet. Approximately 44,089 gallons of solution were pumped from the VLT Pond to the FMS Evaporation Pond. Approximately 339,410 gallons of solution were pumped from the Slot Pond to the FMS Evaporation Pond. Approximately 32,191 gallons of solution were pumped from the leak detectors in July, bringing the cumulative 2012 total to 252,747 gallons. The VLT Pond leak detector continued to be inactive through July (see attached monitoring data).
- The remaining freeboard in the FMS Evaporation Pond at the end of July was approximately 1.46 feet. Combined drain-down from all Arimetco heap leach pads (HLPs) averaged 10.5 gallons per minute (gpm) in July (see attached monitoring data).

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## **July 2012 Activities - Continued**

### Site Security and O&M Activities - Continued

- The ultrasonic level meter located on the VLT weir did not record data for 13 days due to a failed power supply. To avoid this type of data gap in the future, ARC plans to install a LED light inside the power supply panel, and monitor the LED daily, and to collect flow data on a weekly basis.
- EPA was on-Site on July 2 to assess VLT Pond and other Arimetco FMS improvements.

### Other Site Activities

- B.V. Nevada personnel continued with demolition and salvage activities.
- BC and contractor personnel conducted driver safety refresher training on July 31.
- Sonce Devries (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) was on Site July 20 observing Site conditions.

### Site Characterization Activities

- Monthly groundwater elevation measurements were obtained July 23-26.
- Six new survey posts were installed on the south side of the south ramp of the pit Lake on July 9 by Desert Engineering to support pit lake level measurements. The pressure transducer in the pit lake was compared to the new surveyed level, and was found to be within 0.028 of the new surveyed elevation (the pressure transducer will be re-calibrated to match the surveyed level).
- A pit lake water elevation of 4228.336 feet above mean sea level (amsl) was recorded on July 23 from the pressure transducer, an increase of 0.005 feet since June 25, 2012. The pit lake elevation has risen 2.705 feet since July 23, 2011.
- Continued meteorological monitoring at the AM-6 location including wind speed/direction, temperature, relative humidity, barometric pressure, precipitation and solar radiation. A semi-annual calibration of the weather station was performed on July 12.
- No changes to the domestic well sampling program occurred in July.
- One residence (new owner of DW-77) was added to the Bottled Water Program during July. One residence (new owner of DW-76) was informed that they were not eligible for bottled water based on 2Q 2012 sampling results. No response was received from one residence (DW-92) eligible for bottled water (has not responded since April 2012).
- Transmitted the Groundwater Monitoring Plan (GMP) - Revision 2 on July 19.
- Continued the compilation of data for the 1Q 2012 Domestic Well Monitoring Report (DWMR) and the 1Q 2012 Groundwater Monitoring Report (GMR).
- Continued the compilation of field and laboratory data associated with the On-Site Monitor Well program, and the preparation of the Data Summary Report.
- Continued the preparation of SOPs for aquifer solids testing and the supervision of Hazen Laboratory activities for aquifer solids testing.
- Continued the preparation of the revised Site-Wide Groundwater Operable Unit (OU-1) Remedial Investigation (RI) Work Plan including data quality objectives and appendices.
- Continued the preparation of responses to comments and figure modifications as per EPA comments on the Technical Memorandum - Revision 2 for the Process Areas (OU-3) Sub-Surface Utility and Dry Well Geophysical Investigation Results for Phase I Activities.
- Attended a groundwater technical meeting on July 17, which included an update to Site groundwater conditions and discussions about the Groundwater RI Work Plan and groundwater modeling, including the Groundwater Model Work Plan. Initiated the development of Groundwater Model Work Plan objectives.
- Routine database management activities and support of Site investigations and reports. Initiated the preparation of preliminary responses to EPA comments dated July 12, 2012 on the Yerington Mine Site database.

## **Planned August/September 2012 Activities**

### Site Security and O&M Activities

- Continue routine Site O&M, security and bird deterrent activities.
- As necessary, transfer fluids from the VLT Pond to the FMS Evaporation Pond to reduce or eliminate leak detector activity associated with the VLT Pond.
- As necessary, continue discussions with EPA, NDEP and SPS regarding FMS repairs.
- Ship approximately 10 cubic yards of petroleum-contaminated soils to the US Ecology landfill in Beatty NV as non-hazardous non-DOT regulated solid waste resulting from implementation of the VLT Transformer soil cleanup and the Process Areas sub-surface utility/dry well investigation.

### Site Characterization Activities

- Continue groundwater elevation and pit lake level measurements, and meteorological monitoring. Recalibrate the pit lake pressure transducer.
- Continue the Bottled Water Program.
- Transmit the 1Q 2012 GMR and DWMR.
- Prepare for, and conduct, the 3Q 2012 groundwater monitoring event in August. Prepare for, and conduct, the 3Q 2012 domestic well monitoring event in September. As available, compile field and laboratory data for these monitoring events.
- Transmit aquifer solids testing procedures to EPA for approval ahead of lab testing.
- As appropriate, discuss with EPA the preliminary responses to EPA comments on the 2010 Monitor Well and Ag Fields Data Summary Report (DSR). Initiate responses to EPA comments on the Aquifer Test DSR dated April 19, 2012.
- As appropriate, conduct further discussions with EPA regarding the Background Groundwater Quality Assessment and the Initial Bedrock Characterization documents, and the tech memo that describes publicly available surface and groundwater information north of the Site.
- Continue to compile data for the On-Site Monitor Well DSR, and transmit the DSR to EPA.
- Continue the compilation of information for inclusion in the revised Groundwater RI Work Plan.
- Meet with EPA and other project stakeholders on August 28-29 to discuss the revised Groundwater RI and Groundwater Model Work Plans, and related topics. Transmit the document that describes Groundwater Model Work Plan objectives, and continue Work Plan development.
- When available, review EPA's draft data quality objectives for the Arimetco areas of investigation associated with the Site-Wide Groundwater RI Work Plan.
- Transmit responses to EPA comments dated April 12, 2012 on the "Proposed Initial Bedrock Characterization Activities for the Yerington Mine Site" (letter format work plan).
- Transmit responses to EPA comments dated June 14, 2012 on the Process Areas Sub-Surface Utility and Dry Well Geophysical Investigation Tech Memo, and requested figure modifications.
- When available, review EPA's draft Process Areas (OU-3) RI Work Plan and data quality objectives for the Wabuska Drain (OU-7) RI Work Plan.
- Meet with EPA and other project stakeholders on August 14 to discuss the project database with EPA, NDEP and YPT representatives.

Please contact me at (714) 228-6774 or via e-mail at [jack.oman@bp.com](mailto:jack.oman@bp.com) if you have any questions or comments about the July 2012 monthly report.

Sincerely,



Jack Oman  
Project Manager

Attachment

cc: Dave Seter, EPA – via electronic mail  
Roberta Blank, EPA – via electronic mail  
Andrew Helmlinger, EPA – via electronic mail  
Tom Dunkelman, EPA – via electronic mail  
Greg Lovato, NDEP – via electronic mail  
Tom Olsen, BLM – via electronic mail  
Dan Newell, City of Yerington – via electronic mail  
Phyllis Hunewill – via electronic mail  
Virgil Arellano, Lyon County Commissioner – via electronic mail  
Rob Loveberg, Lyon County Planning Department – via electronic mail  
Tom Grady, Nevada State Assembly – via electronic mail  
Jim Sanford, MVEC – via electronic mail  
Lauryne Wright, YPT – via electronic mail  
Chairwoman Howard, YPT – via electronic mail  
Dietrick McGinnis, McGinnis and Associates – via electronic mail  
Tom Bowden, Ridolfi, Inc. – via electronic mail  
Chairwoman McFalls, WRPT – via electronic mail  
Tad Williams, WRPT – via electronic mail  
Ron Halsey, Atlantic Richfield Company – via electronic mail  
James Lucari, Atlantic Richfield Company – via electronic mail  
Marc Ferries, Atlantic Richfield Company – via electronic mail  
Brian Johnson, Atlantic Richfield Company – via electronic mail  
John Batchelder, EnviroSolve – via electronic mail  
Jim Chatham, Atlantic Richfield Company – via electronic mail  
Rich Curley, Curley and Associates, LLC – via electronic mail  
Bill Duffy, Davis Graham & Stubbs – via electronic mail  
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